

From: Mickey Roberson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 10:18pm
Subject: Microsoft Matter

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft

I am retired now, but in my working career I labored at a large company for others and finally as the owner of my own company. I understand how business works and there are occasions when the Federal and State governments do have a stake in how a business conducts its affairs. Unabashed pollution of the environment, negligent disregard for workers' safety, underage and illegal immigrant labor come to mind. However, this Microsoft prosecution has been wrongheaded and bogus from the start.

Microsoft being charged as being monopolistic is ridiculous and I am living proof of that. In my life with computers I have owned SIX Apple laptop computers and ZERO computers that use any Microsoft products at all. To the best of my knowledge I have never contributed one cent to the revenues of Microsoft or the personal fortune of Bill Gates. I have purchased Apple computers with ease as well as the software to operate them and am perfectly happy with my computing access, so how in the world can Microsoft be a monopoly if I have nothing to do with them. If someone does not like Microsoft, just buy an Apple like I have.

The only thing I know about Windows is that it is an operating system I do not need, use or want. My understanding though is that Microsoft has agreed to share some sort of protocols or proprietary information that would help its competitors benefit from Microsoft innovation and market penetration and that seems reasonable enough to me to settle this prosecution that should never have taken place to start with.

This Federal prosecution and the resulting original decision are to me the seminal events that started the plunge of the NASDAQ and the fall of the value in many technology stocks, which by the way has cost me many thousands of dollars in the value of my retirement savings. This plunge has also cost hundreds of thousands of people their jobs, resulted in I am sure billions of dollars of loss to our general economy and a tremendous reduction in the tax dollars flowing into the federal coffers as revenue. It seems almost insane for the U.S. government to attack one of its largest companies which was the world leader in an area in which the only direction seemed up. Some foreign governments give monetary support to their own companies in an effort to compete with U.S. companies, but here with Microsoft the Federal government is trying to destroy a U.S. company. Since Microsoft was not, is not and cannot be a monopoly, it would be interesting to know why Janet Reno and

her associates really prosecuted, but I will not hold my breath waiting for the truth as that will never be known.

Please Mr. Ashcroft, halt this persecution and reach some sort a settlement that will allow the technology sector of our economy to begin to recover where common citizens can go back to work in this sector and help bring us out of this recession. To continue this prosecution or end it with some draconian destruction of Microsoft with only worsen the economy, cause more bankruptcies and cost more thousands of workers their jobs. Bill Gates has been humbled. U.S Senators and Representatives have had plenty of face time on TV. Enough damage has already been done, please no more.

Sincerely yours,

Mickey Roberson
Atlanta, GA